

1 (2) closed-captioned television transmissions have
2 made it possible for thousands of deaf and hearing-im-
3 paired people to gain access to the television medium,
4 thus significantly improving the quality of their lives;

5 (3) closed-captioned television will provide access
6 to information, entertainment, and a greater under-
7 standing of our Nation and the world to over
8 24,000,000 people in the United States who are deaf
9 or hearing-impaired;

10 (4) closed-captioned television will provide benefits
11 for the nearly 38 percent of older Americans who have
12 some loss of hearing;

13 (5) closed-captioned television can assist both
14 hearing and hearing-impaired children with reading and
15 other learning skills, and improve literacy skills among
16 adults;

17 (6) closed-captioned television can assist those
18 among our Nation's large immigrant population who
19 are learning English as a second language with lan-
20 guage comprehension;

21 (7) currently, a consumer must buy a TeleCaption
22 decoder and connect the decoder to a television set in
23 order to display the closed-captioned television trans-
24 missions;

1 (8) technology is now available to enable that
2 closed-caption decoding capability to be built into new
3 television sets during manufacture at a nominal cost by
4 1991; and

5 (9) the availability of decoder-equipped television
6 sets will significantly increase the audience that can be
7 served by closed-captioned television, and such in-
8 creased market will be an incentive to the television
9 medium to provide more captioned programming.

10 **REQUIREMENT FOR CLOSED-CAPTIONING EQUIPMENT**

11 **SEC. 3.** Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934
12 (47 U.S.C. 303) is amended by adding at the end thereof the
13 following:

14 “(u) Require that apparatus designed to receive televi-
15 sion pictures broadcast simultaneously with sound be
16 equipped with built-in decoder circuitry designed to display
17 closed-captioned television transmissions when such appa-
18 tus is manufactured in the United States or imported for use
19 in the United States, and its television picture screen is 13
20 inches or greater in size.”.

21 **PERFORMANCE AND DISPLAY STANDARDS**

22 **SEC. 4.** (a) Section 330 of the Communications Act of
23 1934 (47 U.S.C. 330) is amended by redesignating subsec-
24 tion (b) as subsection (c), and by inserting immediately after
25 subsection (a) the following new subsection:

1 “(b) No person shall ship in interstate commerce, manu-
2 facture, assemble, or import from any foreign country into
3 the United States, any apparatus described in section 303(u)
4 of this Act except in accordance with rules prescribed by the
5 Commission pursuant to the authority granted by that sec-
6 tion. Such rules shall provide performance and display stand-
7 ards for such built-in decoder circuitry. Such rules shall fur-
8 ther require that all such apparatus be able to receive and
9 display closed captioning which have been transmitted by
10 way of line 21 of the vertical blanking interval and which
11 conform to the signal and display specifications set forth in
12 the Public Broadcasting System engineering report numbered
13 E-7709-C dated May 1980, as amended by the Telecaption
14 II Decoder Module Performance Specification published by
15 the National Captioning Institute, November 1985. As new
16 video technology is developed, the Commission shall take
17 such action as the Commission determines appropriate to
18 ensure that closed-captioning service continues to be avail-
19 able to consumers. This subsection shall not apply to carriers
20 transporting such apparatus without trading it.”.

21 (b) Section 330(c) of such Act, as redesignated by sub-
22 section (a) of this section, is amended by deleting “and sec-
23 tion 303(s)” and inserting in lieu thereof “, section 303(s),
24 and section 303(u)”.

EFFECTIVE DATE

2 SEC. 5. Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall take effect on
3 July 1, 1993.

RULES

5 SEC. 6. The Federal Communications Commission shall
6 promulgate rules to implement this Act within 180 days after
7 the date of its enactment.

Passed the Senate August 2 (legislative day, July 10), 1990.

Attest:

WALTER J. STEWART,
Secretary.

101ST CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1974

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 5, 1990

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

AN ACT

To require new televisions to have built in decoder circuitry.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SHORT TITLE

4 SECTION. 1. This Act may be cited as the “Television
5 Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990”.

FINDINGS

7 SEC. 2. The Congress finds that—

8 (1) to the fullest extent made possible by technol-
9 ogy, deaf and hearing-impaired people should have
10 Equal access to the television medium;

1 (2) closed-captioned television transmissions have
2 made it possible for thousands of deaf and hearing-im-
3 paired people to gain access to the television medium,
4 thus significantly improving the quality of their lives;

5 (3) closed-captioned television will provide access
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